

ER 60-387672

STAT

28 MAY 1960

STAT

Mr. J. Parnell Thomas

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Mr. Dulles has asked me to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of May 21 enclosing the newspaper clipping reporting your interview concerning the recent Lockheed U-2 plane incident.

Your letter and the article were read with interest and your kind words of support are appreciated.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

STAT

Executive Officer

STAT O/DCI/ [] rad 27 May 60

Rewritten for JSE signature: EO/DCI/ [] blp 30 May 60

Distribution:

STAT

Original - Addressee

1 - HMK JSE

1 - FMC

✓ 1 - ER w/basic *via reading*

(EXECUTIVE RECEIPT FILE *T*)

Sunday Independent

VOL. II No. 4

SECTION C

SUNDAY MAY 15, 1960

J. Parnell Thomas Advocates 'Strict Alert'

Ex-Congressman Fears Spy Plane Incident Will Curtail Espionage

By BILL WILLIAMSON

The May Day incident in which an American "spy plane" was shot down inside Russia has brought forth an expression of concern and anger from St. Petersburg resident J. Parnell Thomas, former chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee and outspoken foe of communism.

Thomas says his great concern lies in the fear that the upsway

incident will lead to a curtailment of America's espionage activities in ferreting out Communist activities in both this country and those of our allies. He advocated an even "more strict alert".

His anger is directed primarily at those Americans who seemingly have "swallowed hook, line and sinker Premier Nikita Khrushchev's version of the incident."

He presented The Independent with Central Intelligence Agency documents and Un-American Activities Committee testimony records that show widespread infiltration of Russian spies in American Government, industry and military forces.

Thomas served 14 years in Congress as a representative from New Jersey. Ten of those years were spent as a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, the longest term ever served by a member of Congress. It was in 1948-49, while Thomas was serving as chairman of the committee, that the notorious Alger Hiss spy case and a number of Russian espionage rings were exposed. Thomas moved to St. Petersburg to live after leaving Congress in 1950.

"The greatest danger which could come out of the Powers incident is that our espionage activities may be curtailed through

left wing pressure against our Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)," Thomas believes.

Thomas said some non-columnists, a labor leader and several government officials already started "beating thumps of dissension."

The CIA, headed by Aldulles, brother of late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has come under strong criticism for dispatching the plane of the heart of the Soviet Union while world leaders were preparing this week's Summit Conference.

London Times printed: "The CIA, headed by Aldulles, brother of late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has come under strong criticism for dispatching the plane of the heart of the Soviet Union while world leaders were preparing this week's Summit Conference."

ever the reason for the flight), there ought not to be a stringent tightening of the control and coordination of the Central Intelligence Agency's activities."

But Thomas has a strong stand against such criticism. "Our intelligence system was not fully effective until CIA began operating. The criticism being leveled at it now is the same kind that was leveled against the FBI in its early years," he says.

"I am fearful, he added, "that we will make a mistake in sending a pilot over Russia this time."



THOMAS

Approved For Release 2003/07/29 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003700080045-7

Ex-Congressman Fears Relaxed U.S. Espionage

(Continued from Page 1C) In those of other nations, while found the situation in Central America acute from the standpoint of Communist activities. Their activities in Panama today are even better organized."

Thomas also displayed excerpts from testimony given before the Un-American Activities Committee in 1947-48, when it launched an intensive investigation into Communist spy activities in the U. S.

Of particular interest is testimony given by several former FBI agents who had actively investigated the spy activities of the notorious Arthur Adams, a Soviet agent who worked diligently during World War II to steal secrets of the famed Manhattan Project.

According to the records of testimony of the agents, Adams — although his spy activities were fully known — was never arrested because the State Department was reluctant to damage the relations between this country and the Soviet Union, which was then a U. S. ally.

Adams, who has been called "probably the most successful spy ever employed by the Soviet Union," finally escaped this country in 1944, a step ahead of exasperated but helpless FBI agents, and has never been heard of since.

Thus, with a store of knowledge about Communist activities in this country gained while a member of the Un-American Activities Committee, Thomas emphatically states that America's espionage network must be maintained for its own protection.

"There is no more reason to criticize CIA than there is to criticize the FBI," he maintains. "Both are for the protection of The American People."

In conclusion, Thomas says: "I defend American espionage. It's long overdue. Intelligence activities are as important to our defense as any branch of the service."

"I regret the situation in which pilot Powers now finds himself. But to me, he is a great American hero."

Thomas also affirmed what has recently been published in numerous news articles — that Russian planes have been flying high altitude "scouting" missions over Alaska, northern Canada, Hawaii and U. S. foreign installations and bases for some years.

Thomas, a former intelligence officer himself (he served as regional intelligence officer of the 3rd Infantry Division in World War II), also hinted that the U. S. FBI has better means of obtaining secret information in Russia than through high altitude air flights. He said that Russia has been "playing the game of the spy" on America and her friends.

Thomas looked through the files he still maintains in his home and came up with some interesting documents.

One of these is a CIA report that was classified as secret when Thomas received it in 1948 as chairman of the Un-American Activities Committee. The 28-page report is filled with names, personal data and activities of Communist party members, Soviet secret agents and their organizations which were then known to infest Panama, home of the U. S.'s strategic Panama Canal.

Included in the report are names of school teachers (in every school in Panama there is at least one pro-Communist teacher, Thomas says), delegates of the republic's national assembly, labor union leaders, Panama Canal Zone employees and community leaders.

Thomas visited Panama in 1948 and spent 2 1/2 months investigating Communist activities there while recuperating from the strain of the famed "Hollywood Hearings" he helped conduct in 1947.

"Even then," he recalls, "I

May 21, 1960

Dear Mr. Dulles —

Enclosed is an article from The St Petersburg, Florida, Independent Expressing my views on the W2 incident.

As for me, you are doing a great job, and if you think that I can help out any time, please call upon me.

Above all, do not give in to the tears being shed by the "Bleeding Hearts" — in and out of Congress and in and out of the press.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

J. Samuel Thompson

STAT

STAT

J. Parnell Thomas
KING MERRITT & CO., INC.
576 First Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida



Mr. Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington
D.C.

Air Mail